

Through his courageous actions on D-day as an Army Ranger, Bud earned a Distinguished Service Cross. Bud's brave service was crucial to the success of D-day and left an impressive imprint on our Nation's history that was documented in two best-selling books: Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" and Stephen E. Ambrose's "The Victors: Eisenhower and His Boys: The Men of World War II."

Sergeant Lomell passed away on March 1, 2011, at the age of 91, leaving his family and our country with a proud legacy of honor and service. I am proud and humbled to have been able to call this incredible American a constituent. I ask you today to please rise with me in honor of Sergeant Leonard "Bud" Lomell.

TERMINATING MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAMS

(Ms. BASS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, California was ground zero of the foreclosure crisis. At one point, 40 percent of all foreclosures nationwide were concentrated in the State of California. Today in California, nearly one in eight homes is in foreclosure. By far the majority of my constituents who walk through the door have received foreclosure notices or are on the brink of foreclosure. They have been shunned by the banks and have turned to my office and the Federal Government for help.

Mr. Speaker, the two programs on the Republican chopping block this week haven't even been fully implemented: the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program and the FHA Refinance Program. The Emergency Relief Program provides no-interest loans to those who lost their jobs, which is the main reason homeowners fall behind in their mortgage payments.

Not only does this response from the majority ignore the basic economic principle that the housing sector is a key component to economic recovery; it also comes without any alternative to reduce foreclosures.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support struggling homeowners and vote against H.R. 830 and H.R. 836.

THE BORDER WAR CONTINUES ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was murdered in Arizona by bandits crossing into the United States. Border agents approached armed invaders carrying AK-47s. A shootout occurred where Terry was shot and killed. Now, there is evidence that Terry and possibly other agents fired first to defend themselves by firing bean bags at the outlaws before

using live ammo. Documents indicate that the agents were required to fire first with non-lethal bean bags before using live ammo. Allegations also show the AK-47 used by the bandits to kill Terry was a gun the ATF had allowed a smuggler to buy in an apparent sting operation and take to Mexico.

The idea that when armed bandits invade the United States our border agents must fire bean bags is nonsense and no way to protect them or the Nation. You don't take bean bags to a gunfight. And if the guns the bandits used came from our government in some type of undercover sting operation, that is sickening and reprehensible.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1210

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

GAS PRICES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. That's the Dallas Morning News front page. And do you know what they're saying? Gas prices are going up for all drivers and it's time for the gallon of gas to come down or stop. You know, it has risen nearly a buck since last September. That's why I'm calling on the IRS to stand up for small business by increasing the gas mileage rate that they can deduct. The IRS increased the optional mileage rate during spiking gas prices in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina and in 2008. Gas prices are going upward, and there are no signs that the pain at the pump will subside anytime soon.

Taxpayers today, especially small businesses struggling to stay afloat, want, need, and deserve rates that reflect the current cost of travel. They need those deductions.

We need to drill for oil. Call the White House at 202-456-1414 and tell them about it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the gentleman from Texas that remarks in debate are properly addressed to the Chair.

H.R. 1 IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Ask Americans if we should reduce government spend-

ing and most say yes. I agree. But let's dig a little deeper. Let's make the kind of choices that families make.

H.R. 1 that the Republicans have offered in cuts will result in 218,000 fewer children getting the proven benefits of a preschool program called Head Start. H.R. 1, at the same time, does nothing to cut the \$4 billion that we are giving every year to the Big Oil companies. If we want to talk about oil prices, our taxpayers give \$4 billion to the wealthiest corporations in the history of the world.

We are cutting about \$5.7 billion from Pell Grants in H.R. 1. I voted "no." What are we doing about billionaires who are getting tax breaks to leave to their heirs? Eleven billion dollars a year for the wealthiest Americans and their heirs.

We have to make the kind of choices that help middle class Americans. We can tighten our belt, but we don't have to do it on the backs of the middle class.

TAKING A STAND FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. With a \$14 trillion national debt, a \$1.65 trillion deficit this year alone, yesterday the United States Senate voted to reject the House effort to fund the government for the rest of the year. The Senate majority leader even took to the floor and called our \$61 billion in savings "mean spirited," "reckless," and "irresponsible." He even defended Federal funding for the Cowboy Poetry Festival, apparently in his own State.

You know, I learned a long time ago out here in Washington that sometimes things don't change in Washington, D.C., until they have to. I think we have to pick a fight. If House Republicans want to win this battle, we need to take a stand for the budget cuts and the policy changes enshrined in H.R. 1—that's \$61 billion in savings this year, defunding ObamaCare, and defunding Planned Parenthood of America.

It's time to take a stand for fiscal responsibility and reform. We have to say, This far and no farther. For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, we need to make a stand for the American people. And make no mistake about it: If we make this fight, we can win this fight, because the American people are on our side.

THE PARTY OF NO PLAN

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the Party of No has officially become the Party of No Plan. Every week under GOP control has been another week with no plan to create jobs. This is not a game.